

Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Newark Points the Way. Newark, the Commission, 1954. n.p.

The statements of David M. Litwin, then Chairman of the Commission, at the Senate hearings on the bill to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry.

Office of the Mayor. Newark Human Rights Commission. 1973
Annual Report. Newark, the Commission, 1973. 22 p.

This report contains procedures for filing a grievance with the Commission. In 1973 the Commission conducted surveys on police brutality cases being handled by other human rights agencies in the state, an ethnic breakdown of employment in Newark local government, and a survey for a "Patients' Bill of Rights" for Newark hospitals.

Newark Human Rights Commission. The Puerto Ricans in Newark,
N.J. Newark, N.J.: The Author. (n.d.) n.p.

With a brief description of Puerto Rico and Spanish contributions to the American cultural scene, this publication includes statistical data on the Puerto Rican community of Newark. Areas covered are population, age groups, geographical distribution within the city, educational background, housing, school enrollment, and comparisons with other major American cities.

Newark Human Rights Commission. 11th Annual Report for the Year 1963. Newark, the Commission, 1963. 12 p.

Each year the Human Rights Commission publishes an Annual Report to inform the Mayor and people of Newark of major accomplishments and staff changes in the Commission. In 1963 the Commission investigated charges of employment discrimination at the building site of Barringer High School. It also established a curriculum for Spanish-speaking children in the public schools, and took steps to evaluate the concern of the Newark community in reference to the Black Muslims.

Newark, N.J. Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Life
in the NEW Newark. Newark: The Author (1958) 11 p.

This early publication of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in 1958/59 stressed the importance of the Fair Employment Practice Week, the use of Neighborhood Conferences, Human Relations Workshops, the granting of scholarships for conferences, police recruitment, and the celebration of special events such as United Nations Day and Brotherhood Week. The publication was issued under the directorship of Daniel S. Anthony and Mayor Leo Carlin.

Office of the Mayor. Newark Human Rights Commission. 20th Annual Report, 1972. Newark, the Commission, 1972. 36 p.

1972 saw several breakouts of racial tension in Newark's neighborhoods and apartment complexes. Much of this trouble was not really due to racial groups but to an inadequacy of services such as sanitation and recreational facilities. Also, the ground breaking for Kawaida Towers led to picketing and on-going controversy. In all these crises the Human Rights Commission was able to step in and help identify the problems and take steps toward eliminating them.

Office of the Mayor. Newark Human Rights Commission. 1971 Annual Report. Newark, the Commission, 1971. 18 p.

Among activities for 1971 were: busing senior citizens to shopping centers (in cooperation with Newark Housing Authority), organizing a tour of the jail and municipal court, and settling intergroup tension at Barringer High School. Also in that year, an organization of New Jersey Directors of Human Rights Agencies was formed.

The New Jersey antidiscrimination law of 1945, as amended in 1949 (the antidiscrimination law of 1945, ch. 169, public law 1945, as amended in 1949 by ch. 11, public law 1949, and further amended in 1951 by ch. 64, public law 1951) declares in part:

All persons shall have the opportunity to obtain employment ... without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, or ancestry, subject only to conditions and limitations applicable alike to all persons. This opportunity is recognized as and declared to be a civil right.

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Rapkin, Chester et al. Group Relations in Newark, N.J.-1957.
Problems, Prospects, and a Program for Research. Newark,
N.J.: Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. 1957.

In 1957, Newark's Black population was rapidly growing while the white population remained the same. The newcomers found it difficult to acquire the needed qualifications for any but the lowest level of employment. They faced discrimination, both economic and social, in housing and in the schools. However, this report indicates evidence of gradual improvement, and recommends that a more thorough study of Newark's Negro and Puerto Rican communities and their problems be made.

Newark Human Rights Commission. Newark Human Rights Commission Twentieth Anniversary 1952-1972. Newark: The Author, 1972. 8 p.

This report contains an account of the contributions of the agency during its first two decades. Important accomplishments included cooperation with other agencies such as the United Nations, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Urban League, the NAACP, the Greater Newark Urban Coalition, the N.J. Division on Civil Rights, BICC, FOCUS, and various tenant organizations. Mayor Gibson states on the final page:

Today there should not be a need for human rights agencies. The Newark Human Rights Commission is working towards that end and it will indeed one day become a reality when one man's freedom; one man's equality, one man's opportunity is another man's opportunity and when every man can be guaranteed his "Human Rights."

Newark, N.J. - Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. A Report of the Findings and Conclusions of the Central Ward Neighborhood Conference; Fuld Neighborhood House; November 13, 1956. Newark, N.J.: The Author, 1956. 24 p.

As mentioned earlier, one of the basic purposes of the NHRC is to take part in community conferences. This Central Ward Neighborhood Conference was held jointly under the sponsorship of the Urban Community Council, and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Its purpose was to investigate the problems of the Central Ward which at that time contained 88,000 of the city's 443,000 residents. Approximately 60 community representatives participated in the program. The conference itself was conducted in three successive stages. First there was a three minute presentation of a major neighborhood problem. The purpose of this was to "impart information." The second phase was a round table discussion involving 200 participants with a group leader and nine other persons at separate tables. Suggested areas for discussion included: recreation, welfare services, housing, intergroup relations, city services, and schools.

Following the round table discussion, a panel of consultants made up of city officials and civic leaders, were made available to the general assembly for a question and answer period.

Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Newark; A City in Transition. Newark, N.J.: The Author. 1959.

In 1959 the Commission undertook a massive survey to determine the attitudes of average Newarkers on the subject of minority groups and inter-group relations. It was decided to conduct the survey throughout the entire city rather than limiting it to areas where minority groups lived. The results of the study were presented to the Mayor and Council in two large volumes.

In 1959, across the United States, major shifts were taking place in interracial relationships. The black population was rapidly advancing educationally, economically, and in occupational fields. Interactions between racial groups increased. This was true in Newark as elsewhere, and the migration into Newark of other minority groups, notably the Puerto Ricans, brought the need for inter-group cooperation into even sharper focus. The first volume of the study describes the overall population of Newark in 1959. Along with the usual statistical data there is an emphasis upon the changes, racial and other, which were taking place in Newark's neighborhoods. Among items covered are the movement of households within the city, origin of immigrants, and economic make-up of specific neighborhoods. The second volume of the study presents the actual results of interviews with 815 households chosen as representative of Newark's entire population. Questions asked included individual opinions of other racial groups, how well the respondent felt that the groups were

Mayor's Commission on Group Relations of Newark, N.J. First Annual Report. Newark, N.J.: The Author. 24 p.

New Jersey's Anti-Discrimination Law was enacted in 1945, and in 1950 the Newark Civil Rights Commission was appointed by Mayor Leo P. Carlin. When the need for a full-time professional executive director and staff became apparent, the City Commission voted into law the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance, establishing the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. In its first year, 1953, the 16-member Commission introduced many activities to promote interracial cooperation in the City. February 15th began Brotherhood Week, and it was also Newark's Fair Employment Practices Week. Artistic posters and information booths were displayed in strategic places downtown, and a town meeting was held to discuss the problems of discrimination in employment. Another problem spotlighted by the Commission was discrimination in medical college admissions, and this led to the establishment of the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. The Commission also took measures to end street gang wars and other racial tensions among teenagers in the City. They investigated a charge of police brutality, worked to ease racial tension in schools, and, anticipating further areas of tension, fought for elimination of racially-oriented phrases in classified advertisements and election campaigns. Perhaps the most important project undertaken by the Commission was a series of ten Workshops in Human Relations, held at West Side Adult School, and attended by Newark teachers, policemen, and others involved with racially tense situations. These workshops attempted to analyze the problem, including its causes and effects, and set forth the techniques used in reducing such conflicts.

Newark Human Rights Commission. Public Hearing. Report on the Conditions in the Hispanic Community. Newark: The Author. 1976. 62 p.

In 1975 the Newark Human Rights Commission received complaints that the Hispanic community was not getting its fair share of services, jobs, and funding through city agencies, and that Hispanic concerns were not being responded to adequately. To help in solving this problem, the Commission held a public hearing at which representatives of Hispanic agencies and individuals expressed their views of the situation. Their testimony pointed out the principal needs of the Hispanic community. These needs include expanded bilingual education on all levels, from day care to vocational school and college, more jobs in both the public and private sectors, and Spanish-speaking employees and translators to help these people in dealing with police and other city government offices. The hiring of Hispanic teachers and city employees would solve all these problems at once. As a result of this hearing the Commission decided to take a more accurate census of Newark's Hispanic community to determine how much federal funding could be appropriated for programs to help this group.

Newark Human Rights Commission. Report on (the) Public Hearing on Capital Punishment. Municipal Council Chambers. Newark, N.J. May 12 and 13, 1975. Newark, N.J.: The Author, 1975. 15 p.

In May, 1975 a major hearing was held in Council Chambers by the Newark Human Rights Commission on the issue of capital punishment. Two days of testimony was heard from various human rights organizations, the North Ward Property Owners Protective Association, various community organizations, professional groups, churches, police groups, private associations, city agencies, and elected officials. This report contains an abbreviated statement of each. The report concluded that "it is abundantly clear that the interested members of the Greater Newark Community are overwhelmingly opposed to the Assembly Bill which reflects selective application of the death penalty as it is applicable to specific groups, under special circumstances. The concept of this bill is totally unconscionable and unacceptable. Our collective society can neither condone nor permit legislation that sets a greater value on the life of one individual or group as opposed to others, their specific contributions to society as a whole notwithstanding."